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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO OAU COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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USEEC CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

FOL RPT ACCRA 2058 SENT ACTION SECSTATE, BRAZZAVILLE,
COTONOU, FREETOWN, KINSHASA, LIBREVILLE, LAGOS, TUNIS &
YAOUNDE DTD 14 MAR 78

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL U
SE ACCRA 2058

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, OAU, XA, GH

SUBJ: OATUU MEETINGS IN ACCRA

REF: (A) ACCRA 1968; (B) ACCRA 1537

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1. SUMMARY. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM AF/I, THIS CABLE
COVERS HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETINGS OF EXECUTIVE COM-
MITTEE AND GENERAL COUNCIL OF ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN
TRADE UNION UNITY, WHICH MET IN ACCRA WEEK OF FEB. 27.
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AND SELECTED REPLACEMENTS FOR OFFICERS.

THE MAIN BUSINESS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL WAS THE PASSAGE OF 18 RESOLUTIONS, MOST OF WHICH WERE ON TOPICS OF GENERAL LABOR CONCERN. AMONG THE MATTERS, THE RESOLUTIONS COVERED THE ILO CRISIS, FINANCING AFRICAN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, APARTHEID, INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION COOPERATION AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS. THE CONFEREES' ACTION ON THE SITUATION IN TUNISIA IS THE TOPIC OF REFTEL A. END SUMMARY

2. OATUU HELD ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN ACCRA FEBRUARY 27 AND 28, WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY A MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, MARCH 1-3. THE 14-MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT OF ACTIVITIES, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WOMEN WORKERS' CHARTER AND SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA. THE COMMITTEE ENDORSED THE CANDIDATURE OF MR. SIWA DIO-BANZA (ZAIRE) AND MR. N.B. MARTIN (GABON) FOR THE TWO VACANT VICE PRESIDENCIES. MR. T. MOISE (CAMEROON) WAS SELECTED TO REPLACE CHIEF E.O.A. ADEYEMI (NIGERIA) AS TREASURER-GENERAL.

3. THE MAIN BUSINESS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL THE OATUU MEMBERS, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN PASSING 18 RESOLUTIONS. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MORE INTERESTING ONES: RESOLUTION 13 ON THE ILO CRISIS REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR THIS ORGANIZATION AND CALLS ON OIL PRODUCING NATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE ARABS, TO CONTRIBUTE GENEROUSLY TO THE ILO. THIS RESOLUTION NOTES THE ADVERSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EFFECTS OF THE U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ORGANIZATION, BUT DOES NOT URGE OUR RETURN.

4. THE RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING TRADE UNION FINANCES URGES NATIONAL CENTERS TO FULFILL THEIR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO OATUU AND CONTRIBUTE GENEROUSLY. IN PRIVATE TALK WITH EMBASSY LABOR REPORTING OFFICER, OATUU SECRETARY GENERAL AKUMU NOTED THAT LIBYA HAD ONLY GIVEN DLS 150,000 TO THE ORGANIZATION, INSTEAD OF PROMISED DLS 500,000. AKUMU NOTED THAT FINANCIAL SITUATION WAS IMPROVING SLOWLY, CITING DLS 50,000 FROM OAU AND MORE MODEST CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES.

5. IN THE RESOLUTION ON ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID, COUNCIL PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR, TO BEGIN MARCH 21, 1978. RESOLUTION CITES PLANNED WEEK OF TRADE UNION ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID FROM MARCH 13-21, AND ASKS NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTRALS TO CONSIDER ACTIONS SUCH AS REFUSING TO LOAD AND UNLOAD AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS BOUND FOR OR FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND URGING MULTINATIONAL FIRMS TO CEASE COLLABORATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

6. THE RESOLUTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION COOPERATION CALLS ON TRADE UNION CENTRALS TO DISAFFILIATE FROM FOREIGN TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS AND CALLS ON ICFTU, WFTU AND WCL TO ABSTAIN FROM ACTIVITIES THAT WILL BRING ABOUT DIVISION IN AFRICAN TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS. IN CONVERSATION, AKUMU SPECIFICALLY CITED THE CONGO, BENIN, SIERRA LEONE AND TUNISIA AS COUNTRIES WITH TRADE UNION CENTRALS STILL ACTIVE IN WFTU OF ICFTU.

7. ON MEMBERSHIP IN THE ILO GOVERNING BODY, THE RESOLUTION ASKS THAT ALL AFRICAN WORKERS, CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE GOVERNING BODY, BE PROCESSED THROUGH THE AFRICAN WORKERS GROUP UNDER OATUU AUSPICES. THIS RESOLUTION INCLUDES OTHER MEASURES TO PRO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOTE COORDINATION AND PARTICIPATION OF AFRICAN WORKER DELEGATES AND SHOULD ENABLE AFRICANS TO PUT FORWARD A PRE-ARRANGED SLATE OF CANDIDATES.

8. THE RESOLUTION ON TRADE UNION RIGHTS APPEALS TO AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS TO ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF GENUINE TRADE UNIONS AND TO RESTORE TRADE UNION RIGHTS WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED. THE COUNCIL ASKED OATUU WITH THE OAU TO DRAFT A CHARTER ON TRADE UNION RIGHTS, TO BE RATIFIED BY THE OAU HEADS OF STATE.

9. ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, THE RESOLUTION DECLARES SUPPORT FOR THE PLO AS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. RESOLUTION CONDEMNS NEWLY APPROVED ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND ALLIANCE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA. A SEPARATE RESOLUTION ON AFRO-ARAB TRADE UNION COOPERATION APPEARS TO ADD LITTLE TO EXISTING TIES IN THE LABOR FIELD.

10. COMMENTING ON OTHER MATTERS TO LABOR OFFICER, AKUMU NOTED THAT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAD APPROVED THE HIRING OF FORMER UNION OFFICIAL FROM ETHIOPIA TO WORK AT AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION CENTER IN LOME. THIS IS A FOLLOW-UP ON AALC-OATUU AGREEMENT OF JANUARY 1977, UNDER WHICH OATUU IS TO EVENTUALLY ASSUME CONTROL OF LOME CENTER. REGARDING MERGERS OF CENTRAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, AKUMU OBSERVED THAT CONFEREES URGED OATUU TO WORK FOR SUCH MOVES IN LIBERIA AND THE GAMBIA.

11. THE SITUATION IN TUNISIA (REFTELS) AND THE USUAL POLITICAL TOPICS -- AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, APARTHEID AND THE MIDDLE EAST -- WERE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETINGS. MOST OF THE RESOLUTIONS COVERED MORE GENERAL LABOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONCERNS, HOWEVER, SUCH AS TRADE UNION RIGHTS, WORKER
EDUCATION AND MIGRANT WORKERS. THE COMMENTS OF OATUU AND
GHANAIAAN LABOR OFFICIALS ABOUT THE MEETINGS
HAVE BEEN GENERALLY POSITIVE. WE ARE AIRPOUCHING THE
GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AND 107 PAGE OATUU REPORT OF
ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS OATUU REPORT OF THE
ARAB-AFRICAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE, HELD IN ALGIERS IN
OCTOBER 1977., ATTENTION SLEZAK, AF. SMITH
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